

Statement of Thomas S. Finn in support of HB 5027

Good afternoon Senator Handley, Representative Willis and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. My name is Thomas S. Finn. I am a resident of Hunters's Run in Avon Connecticut. I appear today in support of HB5027 AN ACT CONCERNING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH CENTER'S FACILITIES PLAN.

The entire Farmington Valley Community is well served by UCONN's outstanding health facility here in Farmington. The quality of health care afforded to the communities served by UCONN's John Dempsey Hospital is second to none. The skill and standing in the medical community of the physicians assembled here is well known throughout Connecticut and the rest of the country. This reputation is enhanced the integration of the classroom with the clinical experience available at John Dempsey Hospital. The cardiology and other research laboratories at UCONN are further evidence of the national prominence of this great institution.

I, myself, have benefitted from the outstanding medical services available here. I have had several vascular surgeries and cardiology procedures that have allowed me to maintain my health and participate in the fullness of life here in Connecticut.

As the vice president of the Hunter's Tax District, I am fully aware of the impact of UCONN's Health Center on all our residents. However, we see a danger to the continuing development of this institution because of the limitations imposed by its present size. As the Farmington Valley continues its growth, it is imperative that UCONN's Health Center continue to be the Valley's superior medical facility. To insure that superiority, it is critical that you support HB 5027 which provides for the investment in a new hospital tower and continues the support for a robust health center.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today.